Two Texans whose stories were not told to Warren panel will testify

By EARL GOLZ

Two Texas women whose stories were not told to the Warren Commission 13 years ago are among the key witnesses the House Assassinations Committee intends to use in probing the possibility of a conspiracy in the slaying of President John F. Kennedy here Nov. 22, 1963.

Miss Audrey N. Bell, supervisor of the operating room at Parkland Memorial Hospital in 1963, told The News she recalls four or five bullet fragments were taken from then Gov. John Connally rather than three as the Warren Commission found.

Committee investigators say they believe the bullet that supposedly struck Kennedy in the back and then passed through Connally's body would have weighed too much if more than three fragments were removed.

The other witness, a Iexarkana area resident who prefers not to identify herself, has told committee probers she was introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby in Ruby's Carousel Club here in the fall of 1963.

The Warren Commission said it found no evidence that Ruby, who shot Oswald to death in the basement of the Dallas police station two days after the assassination, knew each other.

The Texarkana area woman, who in 1963 was an entertainer in a nightclub near Ruby's club, also told committee investigators that movie film she took of the assassination in Dealey Plaza was taken from her two days later by two men who said they were CIA or FBI agents. The film, not mentioned by the Warren Commission, was never returned to her, she told probers.

Cleburne architect J. Gary Shaw, who located the Texarkana area woman for the committee, quoted her as saying Ruby introduced Oswald to her and at least two others as "'Lee Oswald of the CIA.'"

"I met with committee investigators for about three hours in Dallas before they talked with her," Shaw said. "She called me a couple of days after they saw her. She said she has agreed to testify."

Shaw said she had been reluctant to come forward with the information because she "is scared to death" for reasons not directly connected with the assassination "and rightfully so." But Shaw declined to specifically state why.

Shaw said he also supplied investigators with another Dallas area witness who will testify that Ruby, Oswald and other men from Mexico and New Orleans met one morning on another occasion in the fall of 1963 in the Carousel Club. The witness was called by Ruby to come to the club early that day to serve drinks to some of those present, Shaw said.

Miss Bell, now supervisor of the operating suite at Children's Medical Center, said committee investigators probably sought her out March 12 as a result of what "all started in an incorrect statement in Jim Bishop's book ("The Day Kennedy Was Shot," published in 1968) . . . He (Bishop) had me finding the bullet and all this sort of stuff."

Miss Bell said Bishop found her story through an article she had written for a publication of the National Association of Operating Room Nurses about the operating room scene the day of the assassination. She said she recalled seeing four or five bullet fragments being placed in a glass.

"But please bear in mind, this happened 13 years ago," she said. "I have no proof of anything. I have no records. It was strictly on a recall."

Robert Tannenbaum, the committee's chief investigator of the Kennedy assassination, said if probers "can locate" the four or five fragments and show they weigh more than the metal missing from the almost perfect bullet that allegedly fell from Connally's stretcher, "then the very cornerstone and basis of the entire Warren Commission report is no longer valid."